

A BATCH OF LOVE LETTERS.

The Post From the Woods to the Castle.

BY SIR WILLIAM MAGNAY, BT.
(Author of "The Prince of Wales," "Count Zerk," "A Red of Love," etc.)

N O. 1. From Richard Conroy, the Caravan, in Yarpole Woods, to Miss Violet Guffton, Yarpole Castle, Wye, Wye.

My Darling Violet,
You will be astonished and, I hope, glad, when you open this to find that I am snugly ensconced within a stone's throw of your prison. It may also surprise you to hear that I am a traveling artist, roaming in my caravan in pursuit of the beautiful. But I have thought it likely, after that delicious hour among the palms in Mrs. Mounther's conservatory, that I should calmly allow myself to be torn from me by your ambitious and business-like parents, without making an effort to follow you, and circumvent their drastic plan of keeping you safe for the candidate out of Debert by shutting you up in an out-of-the-way stronghold, like Yarpole Castle. For a man, like your father, who prides himself on being quite up-to-date, to avail himself of such a medieval method of coercion seems absurd. But there you are, and here I am under the shadow of your flagstaff. I am so sorry for you, dearest, that you have to endure the boredom of a castle, in a magnificent castle for my sake. What a pity it is that your mother came upon us so inopportunely in the conservatory that night! It only shows that it does not do to put too much trust in palm leaves. Rhododendrons in tube may be a delusion and a snare. It was all that last kiss. If you had only said "yes" sooner, we might not have been missing so long. But there, I am not going to blame you for making me so happy. I am only wondering when our next meeting will be. I doubt if the most suspicious of mothers will look for the detrimental in a kinsman's caravan. I shall find a trusty messenger, who is not above a bribe, to give you this, and then, when I know it has reached you, shall be ever on the look-out for a sight of my darling girl. Do write and tell me everything that has happened since we were torn apart.

With a thousand kisses,
Your loving Dick.

No. 2. From Miss Violet Guffton, Yarpole Castle, to Richard Conroy, Esq., the Caravan, Yarpole Woods.
My Dearest Dick,

Your letter right. Your letter did surprise me, but less than the news of your extraordinary habit. What a dear, clever fellow you are to think of following me in that fashion! It was a positive stroke of genius. I am sure neither mother nor father (who come down tomorrow with the "arrangement," Lord Chessington) will ever think of looking for you in a caravan. They simply expect you to be a human example of rolling stones that gather no moss—that is, money. Fancy your turning artist for my sake, too! There is no danger of father wanting to buy your pictures, as he never looks at the work of anyone under an R. A. Oh, Dick, it is so dull in this tiresome old castle, but so nice to know that you are near. I shall begin to love the gaudy flaunting flag now that I know you see it. I used to hate it as a flaunting mockery of durandville. Now, Dick, dearest, I have come to the conclusion that it won't do for us after this to entrust our letters to third parties. Knox is not a bad sort, and she dresses her letters beautifully, but when it comes to bribery she is like all her tribe, simply the slave of the highest bidder, and I don't think you could hope to beat at that business. I suppose half-dressing, like the other arts, has a somewhat demoralizing tendency; anyhow, I don't trust Knox; she is a perfect coquette, even to the regulation love of scandal. So I have found a letter-box. At the end of the shrubbery beyond the kitchen garden is an old sun-dial. The stone slab is loose, and a note can be easily slipped under it. I will post mine in my solitary walks with Muff, but you must venture there till after dark; for mother, after the episode of the conservatory, has developed a most abnormal state of suspicion, and everyone here seems on the qui vive. So take care, ever your

P. S.—I quite agree with you about conservatories and palms; still we must risk something. The leaves are large, and after all, why did Mrs. Mounther put seats among them, if people were not meant to sit there?—V.

No. 3. From Richard Conroy to Miss Violet Guffton.
My Darling Violet,

So delighted to get your sweet letter, and to find you have not repeated, or been deterred by the threatened "arrangement." How I should like to have the arranging of him. I am getting on all right, although last night's thunderstorm was rather trying. These rains do not seem calculated to stand against rain. After about twenty minutes' soaking the roof begins to leak inside. I spent most of the night dodging the drips. But you know, darling, I am ever ready to go through not only rain but fire as well for you. I am so glad about the post-office; it is safer, not to say cheaper. Yesterday, after an unrewarded search for a glimpse of the beautiful in the human form divine (you know who I mean) I was forced to content myself with the merely picturesque in landscape. I put up my easel, and set to work on an old friend. I did not seem to get the colors right; my trees are arsenically green, my golden corn looks like mustard, my purring stream like ink; my haystacks resemble tinned loaves, my farmhouse seems suffering from the early symptoms of an earthquake, and my cattle look as though they had come straight from a Noah's ark. It is perhaps an unfortunate temporary profession for me to have chosen, and I sit in constant horrible fear that the fraud will be discovered, in spite of my wearing a green shirt, scarlet necktie, velvet jacket artistically smudged with ultramarine paint, and slouch hat. One of your father's balliffs came and looked over my shoulder, sending cold shivers down my back and upsetting me so that I washed in the sky with green. "Hum!" he said at last gruffly, "picture looks better at a distance, mister." "So do you," I murmured, and he took the hint. In future I shall try the impressionist style. It is less liable to criticism by the untutored. I am longing for news of you again, dearest. I saw the carriage return from the station, doubtless with my rival inside, and the sight made me madly jealous for quite an hour, till I told myself that my sweet girl was staunch and constant, and that I need not fear. Do tell me so yourself! I am longing for the dark-

ness to cover my expedition to the post-office; that way is lighted with love. A million kisses.
For ever your loving Dick.

No. 4. From Miss Violet Guffton to Richard Conroy.
My Dearest Dick,

No; you need not fear. You are right. Chessington, the "arrangement," has arrived, and if my constancy were inclined to wobble (which it isn't) he would never shake it. Such a weak-kneed little creature, I can't call him a man, with beady brown eyes,

and an uncomfortably punctilious manner, as though he were constantly on the verge of being shocked. I suppose it is intended to be aristocratic, but it strikes me as being very silly. When one tells him anything he says, "Aww, really?" and goes on eating his dinner, as though that was all the interest he could afford to show. Once when father unfortunately pronounced a word (you know he went into business at an age when most boys are at school, I thought Lord C. would have fainted. He only got as far as "Aww" that time, and glanced round to see where the door was. I really think I shall drop my h's when I talk to him, and assume a Cockney twang; it would be such fun to see him struggling between disgust and the desire to pay his debts by marrying me, which I vow he never shall. Horrid little snob! He is always trotting out Lady Mary, and the Dowager, and the dear Duchess and the poor Duke, and everything father shows him reminds him of something better at Wratwode, or Roundobin, or Padminton, or Shugbrook. Mother is duly impressed, but I feel itching to throw a peach at his head, and tell him to shut up. One thing is quite certain; I won't marry him, so there, you jealous old impressionist, take comfort. I shall post this early before Chessington is up, so good-night and love and ever so many kisses; don't you wish you may get them!

P. S.—Don't destroy that remarkable picture of yours. We will have it framed, and hung in our house one of these days.—V.

No. 5. From Richard Conroy.
My dear Violet,

You are a darling! Your letter was such a delight. Of course I never expected Lord C. would take you from me, but one never knows; and, after all, a peer is a peer, even if he is rather

less than a man. I had rather an uncomfortable five minutes today. I was at work in the woods, smudging away at an impressionist experiment, when whom should I see coming towards me but Mr. Guffton. In a moment I had whipped out and stuck on an artistic false mustache, which I carry against such contingencies. (I don't wear it habitually because it makes me sneeze, and the stuff that fastens it on smells like stale glue and rancid pomatum.) I turned up my collar and pulled my Fenian hat over my eyes, pretending to paint furiously. He came up and looked. There wasn't much to see; a wash of brown ink and a few daubs of impossible color representing nothing in this world. "What in the name of sanity is that supposed to be?" he asked, after looking at it for a while. "It is going," I said, gruffly, but with dignity, "to be an impressionist sketch." "What of?" he demanded.

"A mud embankment with colored shingle hanging out to dry?" "I don't notice anything of that sort here." "No," I replied boldly, "when the picture is finished will be the proper time for criticism. These are the only first washes." "Oh, indeed," he said. "Run thing art, eh?" "Very," I said, and to my relief he walked off disgusted. I was so excited by my narrow escape that I forgot to pull off my false mustache, and as luck would have it, the balliff of yesterday came along. I saw him looking at me curiously. "You must have some wonderful good stuff for painting hair, mister," he remarked; "with you'd give me the name of it, my thatch is thinning." "Wasn't it awful?" I'm afraid it is all over with my hair, darling, what is to be done? There is nothing now, but to take our courage in both hands and make a dash for happiness. Darling, tell me if you are ready for this!

shall be miserable till I hear from you all through the day, while I even get a glimpse of my sweet girl. With an eternity of kisses, ever your Dick. P. S. From Miss Violet Guffton to Richard Conroy.
My Dearest Boy,
What an absurd bother the mustache! How could you be so thoughtless? Well, the matter is out yet. Anyhow father is all right. Now for my news. Last Chessington proposed. It was exactly all arranged. We were in the liard-room after dinner, and as Lord C. and I were started by a game of 100 up, mother and father left us alone. Then it came. You don't feel savage, Dick dear. You know when an impoverished peer proposes

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(Continued on page 11)



Have You Seen

The beautiful and artistic medallions made from your own photo, which we give free with every \$10.00 worth of purchases.

Ask to See Them.

Skin Lotions.

KEEP YOUR SKIN SOFT AND VELVETY IN THIS COLD WEATHER BY USING PURE HARMLESS LOTIONS. SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR USE ON HANDS AND FACE. Flax, quince and cucumber jelly, especially good. 25c regularly, this week only, per bottle—15c

Dr. Pray's Gloria Lily Lotion, without a superior, per bottle—50c

Pinaud's "Baume Dermique," one of the highest grade lotions imported, 75c regularly, this week—50c

Handkerchiefs

For Men and Women
SALE OF FINE UNLAUNDERED HANDKERCHIEFS FOR WOMEN. Warranted all pure sheer Irish Linen, hand embroidered initials or with 3 rows of fancy hemstitching and dainty embroidered corners, a great bargain at—15c

Men's all pure linen hemstitched the quality of the linen is very fine, equal to a 50c quality, full assortment letters, while they last, each—20c

Corsets.

C. B. Corsets in black, white and drab color, medium bust, short hip, special—50c

G. D. "Justite" Corset, girder top with habit belt and pleated porters on front and sides; special this week—\$1.00

Boys' Waist of heavy coutil, well corded with taped buttons; special—25c

WOMEN'S NEW Belts.

Silk and Velvet Belts in great variety of new styles, with pretty buckles, 50c and 60c values, only—25c

Taffeta, peau de sole and poplin belts, in new colors and styles, 50c and 60c values, only—35c

New style wide crush satin, silk and velvet belts, in all the rich new colors and shades, red, blue, orange, green, brown, black, etc., 50c and 60c values, only—50c

Collars

Embroidered top collars in all colors of embroidery, 50c values, only—15c

Fancy buttonhole effect, pink, blue, and white, in all the latest styles, 50c values, only—25c

String ties in silk to go with above collars, all colors, 50c values, only—15c

Silk Windsor Ties, all shades, hemstitched edges, at—25c

Here's Splendid News for Women.



SKIRTS

MADE

FREE

Of Charge

This Week

WE HAVE SECURED

THE SERVICES OF AN EXPERT MAN TAILOR FOR A VERY LIMITED TIME ONLY. WHO WILL MAKE YOU A SKIRT WITH ANY NUMBER OF GORES UP TO NINE, WITHOUT FEE. FREE OF ANY ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU MADE FROM ANY GOODS YOU MAY PURCHASE WORKMANSHIP.

WE WERE UNUSUALLY FORTUNATE IN SECURING THE SERVICES OF THIS MASTER SKIRT MAKER, WHO IS EN ROUTE FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO CHICAGO TO FILL A SIMILAR POSITION AT ONE OF THE BIG DEPARTMENT STORES. TO CHICAGO TO FILL A SIMILAR POSITION AT ONE OF THE BIG DEPARTMENT STORES. TO CHICAGO TO FILL A SIMILAR POSITION AT ONE OF THE BIG DEPARTMENT STORES.

WE NEVER MARK PRICES UP FOR THE SAKE OF MARKING THEM DOWN AGAIN. THAT'S A POLICY THAT DOESN'T PAY IN THE LONG RUN. OUR LOW PRICES BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON, AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THESE PRICES.

Fancy dress goods, in mohair and all wool fabrics, zibelines in mixtures and illuminated effects, chevrons and other desirable fabrics, at, per yard, only—55c

Manish suitings, now all the rage, for tailor made garments. We are showing a very extensive assortment of designs ranging in price from 50c to \$2.00 per yard. Among our most popular styles in these lines are to be found plain and illuminated zibelines, hard twisted manish mixtures and fine imported fancy mohairs, at, per yard—

\$1.25 and \$1.00

Cloth suitings are used to a great extent for fall and winter wear tailor-made dresses. A lady always looks well dressed in a costume made of these nobly fabrics. Tomorrow we will offer an exceptionally fine assortment in broadcloth, Venetians, covert suitings, meltons and Scotch tweed effects, at, per yard—

\$1.50, \$1.25 and \$1.00

Black goods are always in style. If in doubt what to buy, get a black dress fabric. We are showing an extraordinary line of the most popular weaves in both wool and mohair; goods which we guarantee to give satisfaction in every respect. We offer a collection of good values, at, per yard—

\$1.50, \$1.25 and \$1.00

OUR VELVET SECTION SEEKS COMPARISON. We show an unequal collection of reliable silk velvets, in plain and crushed effects, also a full line of black printed and shadow effects in velvets for waists and costumes. You cannot purchase a handsomer material for velvet costume or waists, especially priced for this week in the different qualities and styles at, per yard—

\$1.25, \$1.00, 75c, 50c.

New Wrappers, Kimonos, Petticoats, Sacques and the New Shirt Waist Wrappers.

THE VALUES HERE MENTIONED ARE UNUSUALLY SPECIAL. Piece lined wrappers, rich dark colors, 98c

Meerized satin wrappers, two piece lined, 22.05

NEW MADE VEILS, 50c

Black and colored chiffon veils, full 1 1/2 yards long, satin ribbon trimmed all around, come in all the new shades, regular 50c veils, this week only.

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FURS

WE WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE STOCK OF MISSES' AND CHILDREN'S FURS IN THE CITY. EMBRACING ALL THE LEADING AND FASHIONABLE DESIGNS. SHADES, LENGTHS, ETC. THIS SEASON'S NECKWEAR, AND ALL AT PRICES SO REASONABLE THAT YOU WILL BE CONVINCED THAT WE CAN SUPPLY YOUR WANTS AT MUCH LESS THAN OTHERS CHARGE.

Black Coney Neck Scarfs, 6 tails, chain fasteners; our price—98c

Brown Hare Scarfs, squirrel lined, large fluffy neck piece, for—\$2.30

Black Coney Ruff, two yards long, finished collar and chain fastener, 6 bushy tails, our price—\$3.00

Your choice of 6 different neck scarfs, all with long hair, in German mink, blended sable, mink, Southern, Canadian beaver, blended marten, revers, etc. These garments are high class in every particular and need only your inspection to convince you we can save you many dollars on any fur coat or cape purchased from us.

At \$8, \$10, \$12, \$14, \$16 and up to \$48

AS A SPECIAL, FOR MONDAY and week we offer ladies' good quality electric seal jackets, 25 inches long, high storm collars and revers, lined throughout with Skinner's best satin lining, sizes 34 to 44, only—\$24.50

Also, same style with Southern Beaver trimming, size to 44, ready for only—\$33.50

WE HAVE A MAGNIFICENT STOCK TO SELECT FROM. Jackets in all sizes, best electric seal, handsome collars and revers of Alaska sable, mink, Southern, Canadian beaver, blended marten, revers, etc. These garments are high class in every particular and need only your inspection to convince you we can save you many dollars on any fur coat or cape purchased from us.

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An Event That Will Save You Many Dollars.

Misses' and Children's Coats \$4.98

A large assortment short box three-quarter and full length tourist or half fitted backs. Mixtures, plain chevrons and kerseys, in brown, navy and ecru. With or without capes, sizes 4 to 16 years.

There are coats in the lot that have sold this week—\$4.98

LADIES' FANCY TWEED LONG Tourist Coat, Also Nobby Box Tourist Coats—\$8.75

Some extra heavy weight. The greatest values ever shown in this assortment of coats. All sizes and nobby styles, suitable for ladies' or misses' wear. \$12 value, this week at—\$8.75

Another suit bar—\$9.50

For your choice of a dozen new styles. They are all fashionable new suits. You'll find loose belted box coats, tight fitting and collarless styles, prettily trimmed suits in the lot that were bought to sell for double the amount. \$18.00 choice this week—\$9.50

New Fall Suits.

CHOICE OF SEVERAL DIFFERENT STYLES

The assortment consists of every new creation brought out this season. Long and short coat effects, in all the popular fabrics and shades, suits for which we will have to pay in other stores \$25.00; special this week at only—\$14.95

New Silk Net and Wool WAISTS

The waist section is brimming over with the newest modes for the early fall and winter. One must see the collection to appreciate the wide range of new and clever designs here to choose from. Today we place on sale three waist styles. You'll experience will appeal most to those who have compared.

\$3.98 PEAU DE SOIE AND TAFETA SILK WAISTS.

If you're familiar with the general price of such peau de soie and tafeta silk waists as these, you'll experience a distinct thrill when you see that we have marked them to \$3.98. They come in all waist and evening shades and all sizes.

\$2.00 ALBATROSS AND FRENCH FLANNEL WAISTS.

All new fall styles. The albatross come shirred and tucked yokes; the flannel waists are daintily piped with checked and plaid silk, very smart and up to date.

GREAT SUIT VALUES.

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